

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PER-01 A-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 PRS-01 (ISO) W

----- 082300

R 071504Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7458

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AMGT, PFOR, NI, US

SUBJECT: PORT HARCOURT CONSULATE

REF: LAGOS 11591

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH MEA PERMSEC IYALLA JANUARY 4, CHARGE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN DAILY TIMES REPORT OF COMMISSIONER ARIKPO'S STATEMENT MID-DECEMBER (REFTEL) THAT DISCUSSIONS WERE UNDERWAY BETWEEN MEA AND CERTAIN EMBASSIES IN LAGOS RE ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSULAR SERVICES IN EASTERN NIGERIA. IYALLA RESPONDED THAT ONE COULD NOT RELY ON ACCURACY OF PRESS REPORTS. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT AT TIME OF INDEPENDENCE, PERMISSION TO OPEN SUBSIDIARY CONSULAR OFFICES IN NIGERIA WAS GRANTED ON A LOOSE AND RATHER HAPHAZARD BASIS. AFTER THE CIVIL WAR, FMG CONSIDERED IT DESIRABLE REGULARIZE THE MATTER, INTER ALIA INTRODUCING AN ELEMENT OF RECIPROCITY THAT WOULD PERMIT NIGERIA TO OPEN ADDITIONAL CONSULATES OF ITS OWN IN VARIOUS OTHER COUNTRIES. THE MATTER HAS THEREFORE BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION AND SOMETHING SHOULD BE COMING OUT ON IT SHORTLY.

2. IN RESPONSE TO CHARGE'S QUERY, IYALLA INDICATED DISCUSSIONS THIS SUBJECT HAVE BEEN INTERNAL AND THERE WOULD BE NO NEED FOR USG TO TAKE ANY STEPS TO REITERATE ITS DESIRE TO OPEN CONSULATE IN PORT HARCOURT. THAT IS ON RECORD, AND FMG IS WELL AWARE OF OUR INTEREST.

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3. COMMENT: WHILE WE HAVE HAD IMPRESSION CONSULATES ISSUE WAS ON

ICE, PERMSEC IYALLA PRESENTED THE ABOVE INFORMATION IN SUCH A WAY AS TO INDICATE THAT THERE HAVE INDEED BEEN SOME CURRENT INTERNAL FMG DISCUSSIONS OF THE QUESTION, THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS ACTUALLY NEAR A DETERMINATION IN THE MATTER AND THAT WE WILL BE INFORMED OF THE OUTCOME. WE ARE NOT HOLDING OUR BREATH BUT WILL BE ON THE ALERT FOR ANYTHING FURTHER ON THE SUBJECT AND WILL KEEP DEPARTMENT INFORMED.

CROSBY

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLICIES, CONSULATE OPENING
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Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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